

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-29 Cancelled.

1 30. (Previously Added) A method for anastomosing two ends of tissue, said method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 a) placing a biodegradable shrink film around each end of tissue; and

4 b) increasing the temperature of the shrink film to its glass transition temperature,

5 wherein the biodegradable shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid

6 having at least 75% lactic acid by weight.

1 31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein step b) is achieved by

2 pouring warm saline around the biodegradable shrink film.

1 32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 31 wherein the warm saline is

2 approximately 42°C.

1 33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising:

2 setting a fixation device around the two ends of tissue.

1 34. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein there exists a space in

2 between the two ends of tissue.

1 35. (Previously Added) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

2 prior to step a), implanting a biodegradable matrix seeded with growth factors

3 into the space between the two ends of tissue.

1 36. (Previously Added) A method for preventing tissue from collapsing into a void,
2 the method comprising:

3 placing a biodegradable shrink film over the void, wherein the biodegradable
4 shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid having at least 75% lactic
5 acid by weight.

1 37. (Currently Added) A method for anastomosing two ends of tissue, said method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 a) placing a biodegradable shrink film around each end of tissue; and
4 b) increasing the temperature of the shrink film to its glass transition temperature,
5 wherein the biodegradable shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid
6 having at least 75% lactic acid by weight.

1 38. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 wherein step b) is achieved by pouring
2 warm saline around the biodegradable shrink film.

1 39. (Currently Added) The method of claim 38 wherein the warm saline is
2 approximately 42°C.

1 40. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 further comprising:
2 setting a fixation device around the two ends of tissue.

1 41. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 wherein there exists a space in
2 between the two ends of tissue.

1 42. (Currently Added) The method of claim 41 further comprising:

2 prior to step a), implanting a biodegradable matrix seeded with growth factors into the
3 space between the two ends of tissue.

1 43. (Currently Added) A method for preventing tissue from collapsing into a void, the
2 method comprising:
3 placing a biodegradable shrink film over the void, wherein the biodegradable shrink
4 film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid having at least 75% lactic acid by
5 weight.